

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## How Does a Bison Move?

Bison are large, powerful mammals known for their strength and ability to move quickly despite their size. They do not fly or climb but are excellent runners and swimmers. Bison can run at impressive speeds of up to 35 miles per hour, which helps them escape predators like wolves. Their strong legs and muscular bodies make them efficient runners, able to cover long distances when needed.

A bison moves using all four legs in a coordinated pattern, with their hooves providing grip on the ground. They often move in herds, which helps protect them from predators. When threatened, a herd of bison may stampede together, using their speed and numbers to deter danger.

While bison are not primarily known for swimming, they are capable of crossing rivers and lakes when necessary. Their powerful legs allow them to paddle through the water, and their thick fur helps keep them warm during cold swims.

Bison have special techniques for moving efficiently. They lower their heads and charge when defending themselves, using their massive heads and curved horns to push through obstacles. This behavior is often seen when bulls compete for dominance during mating season.

Bison's movement is vital for maintaining healthy ecosystems. As they travel, they graze on grasses, preventing overgrowth and promoting plant diversity. This activity helps other animals by keeping the grasslands balanced and healthy.